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Pak Military Regime's Airstrikes Kill 38, Injure 163 Civilians in Eastern Provinces, Fitrat Says

KABUL: Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat, Deputy Spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, said in a statement on Monday that the Pakistani Military Regime's forces carried out overnight airstrikes on residential areas in the Giyan district of Paktika, Chamkani district of Paktia, and Manogai district of Kunar Province, killing 38 people and injuring 163 others, including women and children.

According to Fitrat, the deadliest attack occurred in Chamkani district of Paktia Province, where civilians had gathered to recover bodies and assist the wounded following an initial strike.

He said the area was hit again during the rescue effort, resulting in 30 deaths and 158 injuries.

The deputy spokesman added that Afghan Air Force personnel promptly arrived at the scene and transported the injured to hospitals for medical treatment.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, Zabihullah Mujahid, said in a statement on early Monday morning that the Pakistani Military Regime's forces carried out overnight airstrikes on residential areas in the Giyan district of Paktika, Chamkani district of Paktia, and Manogai district of Kunar Province, killing dozens of civilians.

The Islamic Emirate strongly condemned the attacks, calling them a "crime" and a "barbaric act" against civilians, Mujahid said, adding that the strikes constituted a blatant violation and stressing that such actions are unacceptable.

A few weeks ago, the Pakistani aircraft also carried out airstrikes in the eastern provinces of Kunar, Khost, and Paktika, and according to the Afghan officials, those attacks killed at least 13 civilians, including 11 children and wounded 14 others, most of whom were women and children.

The Kabul Times

Islamic Emirate Summons Pakistani Chargé d'affaires Lodges Strong Protest Over Airstrikes

KABUL: The country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Monday that it has summoned Pakistan's chargé d'affaires in Kabul to formally convey its strong protest over the violations of Afghan airspace and airstrikes targeting civilian homes in Kunar, Paktia, and Paktika provinces.

According to the statement, the ministry condemned the attacks in the strongest terms, calling them a clear violation of international law, humanitarian principles, and the sovereignty of states.

The ministry also accused Pakistan's military leadership of repeatedly attempting to shift attention from its internal political and security challenges by making what it described as unfounded allegations against Afghanistan.

According to the statement, such actions undermine mutual trust, damage bilateral relations, and threaten regional peace, security, and stability.

The Kabul Times

Pakistan's Attacks on Civilians a Clear Violation of Human Principles, Farahi

KABUL: Mawlavi Mujahir Farahi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Publications Affairs, strongly condemned the Pakistani Military Regime's airstrikes on civilian areas in eastern provinces, stating that such attacks represent a clear violation of human principles and international law.

Addressing a gathering in Parwan province, Farahi said that Pakistan has repeatedly targeted civilian areas based on false claims and without proper consideration, resulting in the deaths and injuries of several civilians and national defenders, RTA reported on Monday.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, within its available capabilities and conditions, remains committed to defending the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national interests, and is closely monitoring all activities that threaten Afghanistan's security and stability," the deputy minister said, adding that efforts will continue to strengthen national capacities and development across various sectors.

He stated that an appropriate response will be given at the right time and in accordance with available means.

The deputy information and culture minister further said: "Afghanistan is facing an adversary that does not respect any rules of war and is carrying out actions similar to those seen in Gaza."

He noted that such attacks bring no benefit to Pakistan and will only increase resentment and strengthen the spirit of resistance among the Afghan people.

The Kabul Times

MoU Signed to Support Vulnerable Returning Families in Nangarhar

KABUL: The country's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation said in a statement on Monday that it has signed a cooperation agreement worth $537,855 with a humanitarian organization to provide protection services for vulnerable people in Nangarhar Province.

The project will benefit 10,343 internally displaced persons, returnees, and members of host communities by delivering essential protection and support services, the statement said.

The initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to assist vulnerable populations and improve conditions for families affected by displacement, the statement added.

The Kabul Times

Over 40 Jihad-Era Artifacts Donated to Panjshir's Jihadi Museum

KABUL: Thirty-four historical artifacts from Afghanistan's two decades of conflict have been donated to the Jihadi Museum under the Panjshir Directorate of Information and Culture to help preserve the country's modern historical heritage.

The collection was handed over by Mawlavi Mohammad Akram Fukoor, head of the Panjshir Criminal Court, to enrich the museum's archives, the Ministry of Information and Culture said in a statement Monday.

Director of Information and Culture Mawlavi Nasrullah Malekzada welcomed the donation, assuring that the artifacts would be professionally preserved while emphasizing the need for improved facilities and equipment for the museum.

According to the statement, the collection includes ammunition for light and heavy weapons, hand grenades, lithium batteries reportedly used in adhesive mine construction, mine components, and slow-burning fuses. Fukoor reaffirmed his commitment to continue supporting efforts to collect and preserve historical artifacts related to Afghanistan's recent history. **The Kabul Times**

Literary Gathering Held in Logar's Mawlana Valley to Celebrate Cultural Heritage

KABUL: A literary gathering was held in the scenic Mawlana Valley of Logar Province with the participation of Mawlavi Atiqullah Azizi, Deputy Minister for Culture and Arts of the Ministry of Information and Culture, highlighting the area's historical, cultural, and spiritual significance.

Addressing the event, Azizi described the renowned Islamic scholar and Sufi figure Mawlana Yaqub Charkhi as one of the distinguished scholars and enduring prides of the Islamic Ummah, emphasizing his lasting contribution to Islamic scholarship and spiritual thought, according to a statement from the ministry on Monday.

He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to preserving and developing the historic and cultural site of Mawlana Valley, saying continued efforts will be made to protect its heritage and promote it as an important cultural destination.

The gathering formed part of the ministry's ongoing initiatives to support literary and cultural activities while preserving Afghanistan's historical and religious landmarks.

The Kabul Times

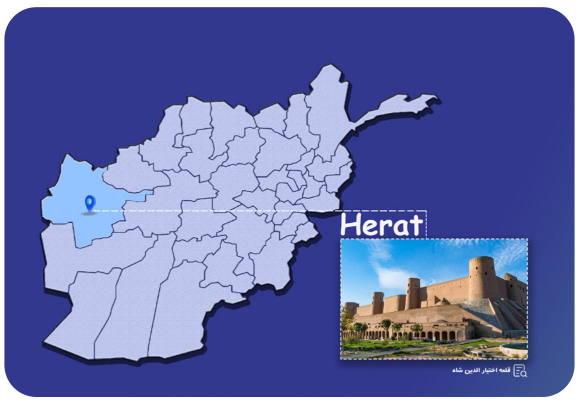
Herat Marks 302nd Birth Anniversary of Turkmen Poet Makhtumquli Faraghi

KABUL: A cultural gathering has been held in Herat to mark the 302nd birth anniversary of renowned Turkmen poet Makhtumquli Faraghi, underscoring his historic role in shaping literary heritage and promoting unity across the region.

Organized by the Afghan Turkmen Cultural Association in coordination with the provincial Directorate of Information and Culture, the gathering was attended by cultural figures, poets, writers, and scholars, the Ministry of Information and Culture said in a statement on Monday.

Organizers said the event aimed to introduce Faraghi's life, literary works, and intellectual legacy to a wider audience, describing him as a symbol of unity, harmony, and cultural identity across the region.

Participants stressed the importance of such programs in familiarizing younger generations with influential literary and cultural figures, while officials from the Information and Culture Directorate highlighted Faraghi's lasting contribution to Turkmen literature and social cohesion.



Makhtumquli Faraghi, one of the most celebrated classical Turkmen poets of the 18th century, remains widely respected, with his works translated into numerous languages.

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Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Dialogue, Not Violence, Must Define Kabul-Islamabad Relations

The relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan has long been marked by turbulence, mistrust, and recurring crises. Yet amid these challenges, one principle remains clear that dialogue is the only viable path forward. The continuation of hostility not only undermines bilateral ties but also inflicts suffering on ordinary people who live along both sides of the hypothetical Durand Line.

Recent developments have once again highlighted the fragility of this relationship. Despite rounds of official talks, the Pakistani military regime has repeatedly resorted to military aggression, striking Afghan territory and causing the deaths and injury of numerous civilians, including women and children. These actions are not only unjustifiable but also counterproductive. They deepen resentment, erode trust, and push both nations further away from the possibility of peaceful coexistence. Afghanistan cannot and will not leave such attacks unanswered.

The Afghan position is rooted in a simple yet powerful truth and there is no alternative to dialogue. Violence may yield temporary tactical gains, but it destroys the foundation of long-term stability. Dialogue, on the other hand, offers a mechanism to address grievances, clarify misunderstandings, and build frameworks for cooperation. It is through negotiation that nations can transform disputes into opportunities for collaboration in trade, security, and regional development.

Pakistan's military regime must recognize that its current path leads only to isolation and perpetual conflict. The Afghan people have endured decades of war and foreign intervention; they will not accept further aggression from a neighbor that claims to be a partner. By continuing airstrikes and violating Afghan sovereignty, Pakistan risks igniting a cycle of retaliation that will destabilize the entire region.

Afghanistan's message is firm: the only solution lies in dialogue. The regime in Islamabad must abandon the illusion that force can dictate outcomes. Instead, it should commit to genuine negotiations, respect agreed principles, and refrain from targeting civilians. The Afghan government has made clear its willingness to engage constructively, but it will not tolerate attacks on its people.

The international community, particularly regional actors, also bears responsibility. Silence in the face of civilian casualties emboldens aggressors. Neighboring countries must encourage Pakistan to return to the negotiating table and uphold its commitments. Only through sustained diplomatic engagement can Afghanistan and Pakistan move beyond cycles of violence and build a future defined by cooperation rather than confrontation. Afghanistan stands ready for dialogue, but it will defend its sovereignty and its people. Pakistan must understand that there is no military solution to the disputes between the two nations. The path forward is dialogue, nothing else.

Herat Begins Construction of Major Underground Market

By:Rahmat Shah Faraz

Herat Municipality has announced the launch of a major urban development project which is the construction of a two-story underground market in front of Herat Provincial Hospital. The project, valued at 38 million afghanis, is designed to modernize the city's infrastructure, ease traffic congestion, and provide organized commercial space for laboratories and pharmacies. Officials expect the work to be completed within six months, a timeline that reflects both urgency and ambition.

According to Mohammad Ayub Saif-ul-Jihad, Director of Technical and Professional Affairs at Herat Municipality, the underground facility will cover more than 2,000 square meters, with dimensions of 49 meters in length and 42 meters in width. The structure will include two levels: one dedicated to commercial use and the other serving as a modern parking facility. This dual purpose is intended to address two pressing urban challenges simultaneously—providing accessible health-related services near the provincial hospital and reducing traffic congestion in one of the busiest parts of the city.

One floor will be allocated specifically to laboratories and pharmacies, ensuring that patients visiting the hospital can access medical services in a more organized and efficient manner. In addition, the project incorporates a pedestrian underpass, which will allow residents to cross the central road safely and help improve traffic flow.

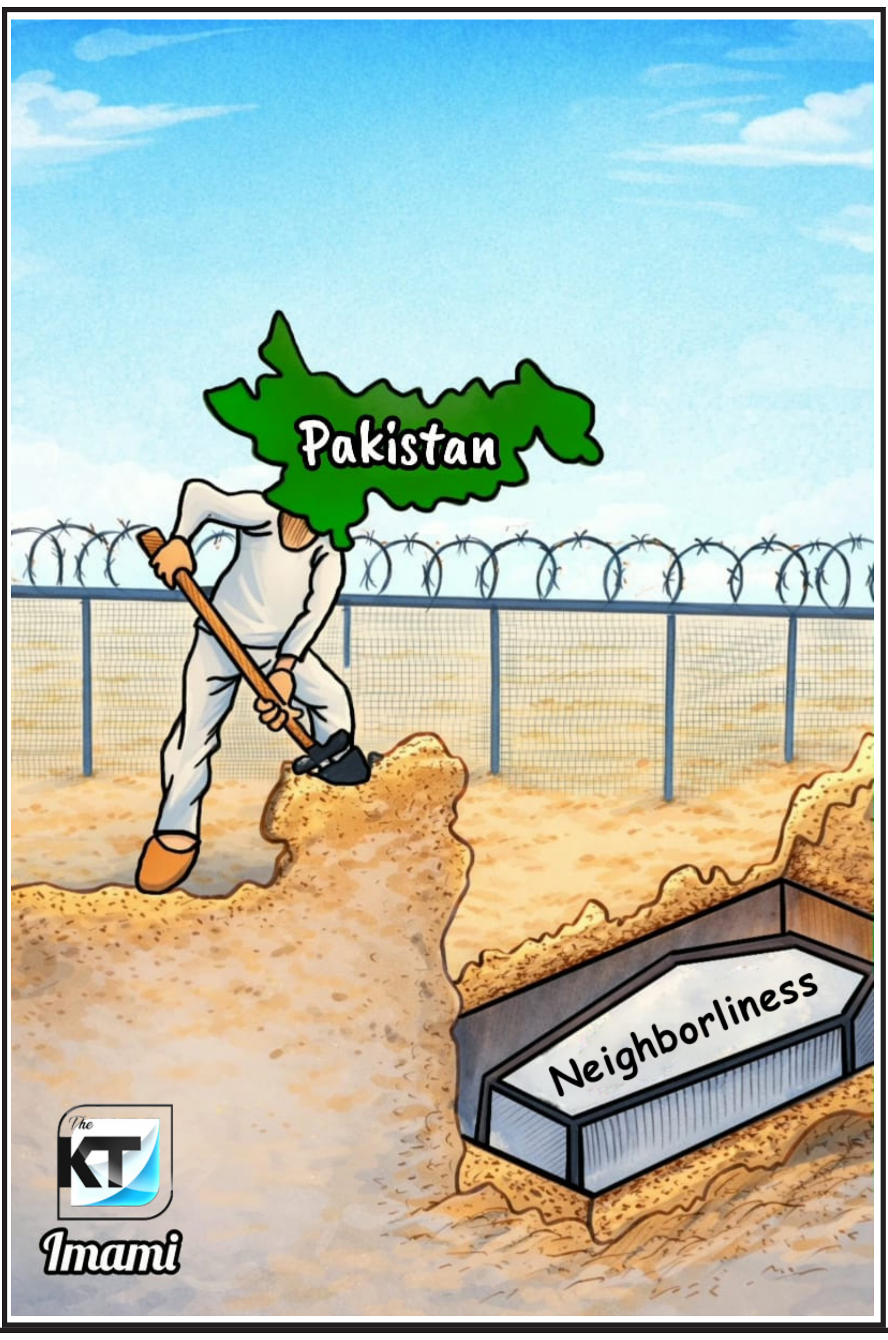
The construction is expected to generate employment opportunities for approximately 200 people. This is significant not only for Herat but also for Afghanistan's broader economy, as infrastructure projects of this scale provide jobs, stimulate local markets, and encourage investment. Nazir Ahmad Noori, the project's contractor, emphasized that the work will be completed in two phases. The southern section will be finished and reopened to traffic before construction begins on the northern section, a phased approach designed to minimize disruption.

Since construction began, traffic congestion in Herat has temporarily worsened. Residents have voiced concerns about delays and difficulties in reaching the provincial hospital. Abdul Sabir Karimi, a local resident, noted that municipal projects often take longer than expected, and urged authorities to accelerate the work. "The sooner this project is completed, the sooner people's problems will be resolved," he said. His comments reflect a common sentiment: while residents welcome modernization, they are eager for swift completion to reduce the inconvenience caused during construction.

The underground market project is more than just a local development. It symbolizes Afghanistan's ability to undertake modern urban infrastructure projects, a sign of confidence that stems from improved nationwide security. In recent years, insecurity and instability often delayed or halted construction efforts across the country. Today, however, the initiation of a complex project in Herat demonstrates that conditions have changed. The ability to plan, fund, and implement such a project in a provincial capital reflects a new environment in which municipalities can focus on development rather than crisis management.

Security is the foundation upon which economic growth and modernization are built. Without stability, projects of this scale would be impossible. The fact that Herat Municipality can commit to a six-month timeline, employ hundreds of workers, and coordinate with contractors is evidence that Afghanistan's cities are benefiting from a more secure environment.

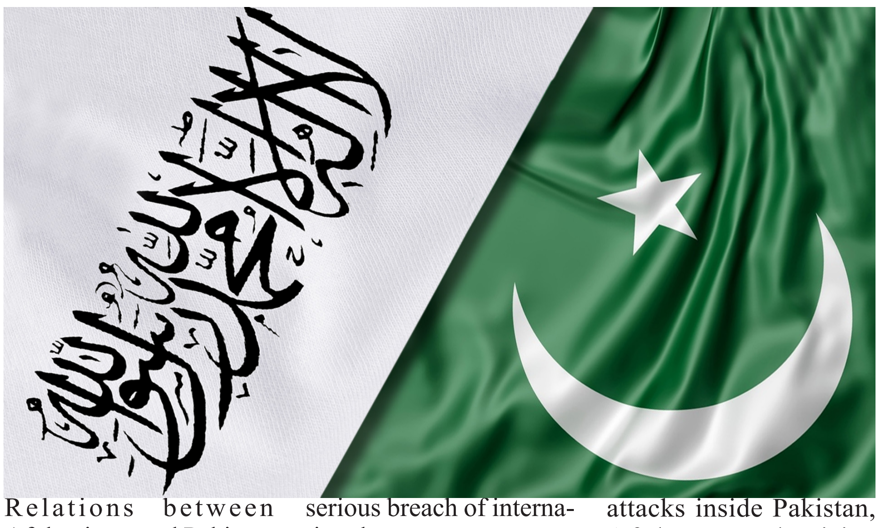
See P4



The Kabul Times Daily

How Recent Attacks Could Reshape Kabul-Islamabad Relations

By: Mashl Noori



Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan have entered another difficult phase after Kabul summoned Pakistan's Chargé d'Affaires over airstrikes that Afghan authorities say killed and injured hundreds of civilians in several eastern provinces.

According to Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistani military aircraft carried out strikes late at night in parts of Kunar, Paktia, and Paktika provinces, hitting residential are-as where ordinary families were living. Afghan officials said the attacks killed 36 civilians, including women and children, and wounded 163 others.

The incident has caused anger and concern in Afghanistan, with authorities describing the strikes as a violation of the country's airspace and national sovereignty. In response, the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs called in Pakistan's diplomatic representative in Kabul and delivered a strong protest, demanding that Islamabad address what Afghanistan con-siders a serious breach of international norms.

For Afghan officials, the issue is not only about a military operation but also about the hu-man impact on families caught in the middle. The reported deaths of civilians, particularly women and children, have become a central point in Kabul's criticism of Pakistan's ac-tions. Afghan authorities have argued that protecting civilian lives should remain a priority in all security-related decisions.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has strongly condemned the strikes, saying they violate international principles and humanitarian laws. Officials have warned that such actions could further damage trust between the two neighboring countries and make efforts to im-prove relations more difficult.

The latest dispute comes against the backdrop of long-standing tensions between Kabul and Islamabad. While Pakistan has repeatedly raised security concerns and accused groups operating from Afghan soil of involvement in attacks inside Pakistan, Afghan au-thorities have rejected what they describe as unsupported allegations. Kabul has repeat-edly called for evidence-based cooperation instead of blame and military responses.

Afghan officials say Pakistan has previously linked certain security incidents and explo-sions to Afghanistan without presenting convincing evidence. They argue that such accu-sations create a climate of mistrust and prevent the two countries from working together to address common challenges. The Afghan government has also criticized the use of force as a solution to political and security disagreements. According to Kabul, military actions across borders can create more problems than they solve and may negatively affect peace and stability across the region.

The situation highlights the complicated relationship between the two countries. Afghani-stan and Pakistan share deep historical, cultural, and economic ties, but their relations have frequently been affected by security disputes and disagreements over border issues. Despite these challenges, both countries remain connected through trade, transportation, and regional interests.

Observers believe that continued military confrontations could increase tensions and make cooperation on important issues more difficult. They argue that dialogue, communi-cation channels, and diplomatic engagement are necessary to prevent misunderstandings from turning into larger conflicts.

The human cost of such incidents remains a major concern. Communities living near the border areas have often faced the consequences of regional tensions, where military op-erations and security disputes can directly affect civilian lives.

Afghanistan's decision to summon Pakistan's diplomat sends a clear message that Kabul views the reported strikes as a serious matter requiring an official response. At the same time, the incident shows the urgent need for both countries to find ways to manage their differences through dialogue rather than escalation. As Afghanistan and Pakistan continue to face shared security and economic challenges, maintaining stable relations will be crucial for the future of the region. The latest crisis may either deepen existing tensions or serve as a reminder of the importance of diplomacy and cooperation between the two neighbors.

Over 367,000 Jeribs of Public Pasture Identified in Jawzjan, Ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Justice of the Islamic Emirate said in a statement on Monday that the Commission for the Prevention of Land Grabbing has identified more than 367,000 jeribs of public pasture across Jawzjan Province.

The land is located in the provincial capital and six districts and has been officially recognized as public pasture, as part of ongoing efforts to protect state-owned land and prevent illegal appropriation, the statement said.

"The move is part of broader measures aimed at preventing illegal land appropriation and ensuring that public and government-owned lands are safeguarded for lawful use and future generations," the statement said.

The statement added that the identification process was carried out after detailed field surveys and documentation conducted by relevant authorities in coordination with local offices.

Similar efforts are continuing in other provinces of the country to review land ownership records, resolve disputes, and distinguish public property from private holdings, the statement added.

The Kabul Times

Drug-Free Afghanistan; the Islamic Emirate's Major Achievement

By: Romal Saydi

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has fulfilled its full commitments in combating narcotics by implementing extensive measures to curb drug trafficking in the country.

The United Nations agencies, international organizations, numerous countries in the world and region have commended the Islamic Emirate's efforts in the fight against narcotics. With the decree banning poppy cultivation, there has been an unprecedented reduction in this field, which is considered a major achievement in the history of Afghanistan. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has fulfilled its full commitments in combating narcotics by implementing extensive measures to curb drug trafficking in the country. In a recent meeting held by the General Directorate of Drug Addiction Treatment of the Ministry of Public Health, it has been announced that the Islamic Emirate has been able to reduce the cultivation, trafficking, and use of drugs in the country to almost zero.

According to the IEA's officials, over 45,000 drug- addicts have been treated in the past year alone, reflecting extensive efforts in both the fight and treatment areas.

The Islamic Emirate has taken a clear policy on drug prevention from the very beginning. Banning poppy cultivation, measures against trafficking networks, and treatment programs for drug-addicts are practical examples of this policy. The aim of these measures is to keep Afghanistan free from this evil phenomenon and ensure that the next generation lives in a healthy environment. The Islamic Emirate's serious measures in the fight against narcotics have also attracted international attention. The Islamic Emirate has taken a decisive stance in this regard from the beginning and has taken practical steps to prevent cultivation, trafficking, and use of narcotics in the country.

A number of countries, including Russia, have also acknowledged this reality and have mentioned Afghanistan's recent developments in their statements. This situation shows that the Islamic Emirate's fight against drugs has been considered significant by the region and the world.

In the meantime, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has urged the United Nations to fairly and accurately reflect the country's counter-narcotics achievements in its upcoming World Drug Report, while calling for practical cooperation to support alternative livelihoods for farmers.

In a statement released by the country's Ministry of Interior said that Deputy Minister for Counter-Narcotics Sheikh Abdul Rahman Munir raised the issue during a meeting with Polleak Ok Serei, head of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

According to the statement, the purpose of the meeting was to exchange views on the UN's upcoming global report and added that Afghanistan's counter-narcotics efforts, particularly those of the deputy ministry, would be reflected in a fair and factual manner.

"We hope the United Nations global report will present Afghanistan's achievements and activities in preventing narcotics and combating this destructive phenomenon in a truthful, honest and fair manner," Munir said, adding that significant progress has been made in preventing drug trafficking along the country's major highways.

In the statement, Munir called on the UNODC representative to give greater attention and practical support for creating alternative livelihoods for farmers instead of cultivating poppies and other prohibited crops. As the Islamic Emirate has fulfilled its part in the fight against narcotics in the country, it is time that families, religious scholars, teachers, media, and community leaders play their important role in raising public awareness and guiding the younger generation. Every young person who is saved from this evil phenomenon becomes part of the country's growth and prosperity. An assessment of the achievements of the past year shows that serious attention has been paid to the treatment of addicts in addition to preventing the cultivation, trafficking, and use of drugs. The continuation of these efforts will pave the ground for Afghanistan to have a safer, healthier, and drug-free society and for the next generation to use their abilities in a better environment.

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Afghan International Referee to Officiate Asian Taekwondo Championships in Japan

Afghanistan has earned another important recognition on the international taekwondo stage, as internationally certified referee Abdul Saboor Omari has been selected to officiate at the upcoming Asian Taekwondo Championships in Japan.

According to Mohammad Bashir Taraki, head coach of Afghanistan's national taekwondo team, Omari has been officially appointed as a referee for the 20th Asian Taekwondo Championships, which will be held later this year in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. Taraki confirmed the development in a statement to local media, describing the selection as a significant achievement for Afghanistan's taekwondo community. In addition to serving as an international referee, Abdul Saboor Omari is the Technical Deputy of the Afghanistan Taekwondo Federation and has played an active role in promoting the sport and maintaining international officiating standards.

His appointment reflects both his professional experience and the confidence that Asian taekwondo authorities have placed in his abilities.

The Asian Taekwondo Championships are among the continent's most prestigious competitions, bringing together elite athletes and officials from across Asia. The event provides a platform not only for top-level competition but also for strengthening cooperation and raising technical standards within the sport.

Omari's selection marks another positive milestone for Afghan taekwondo and highlights the country's growing presence in international sporting events. His participation as an official at such a high-profile championship is expected to inspire Afghan athletes and referees while showcasing Afghanistan's qualified sporting professionals on the continental stage.

The Kabul Times

Canada Becomes First Team to Reach FIFA World Cup Round of 16

Canada has become the first team to secure a place in the Round of 16 after edging South Africa 1-0 in a dramatic FIFA World Cup group-stage encounter.

The closely contested match remained deadlocked throughout regular time, with both teams creating chances but failing to find the breakthrough. As the game appeared destined for a draw, Canada produced a decisive moment deep into stoppage time.

Midfielder Stephen Eustáquio emerged as the hero, scoring the only goal of the match in added time to hand Canada a hard-fought victory. His late strike not only sealed all three points but also guaranteed Canada's progression to the knockout stage of the tournament. The victory highlights Canada's growing strength on the international stage, as the team continues to impress with disciplined defending, tactical organization, and resilience under pressure. Their ability to remain patient until the final moments ultimately proved the difference against a determined South African side.

For South Africa, the narrow defeat is a disappointing setback, leaving the team with more work to do in its remaining group-stage fixtures to keep its hopes of advancing alive.

Canada's qualification as the first team to reach the Round of 16 sends a strong message to the rest of the tournament, with the North American side now turning its attention to maintaining its momentum ahead of the knockout rounds.

The Kabul Times

First "Tour Afghanistan" Motorcycle Racing Event Kicks Off in Kabul

The first-ever "Tour Afghanistan" motorcycle racing competition has officially started with the participation of 20 motorcycle riders. The event has been organized by the National Motorcycle Racing Federation in cooperation with the General Directorate of Olympic, Physical Education, and Sports.

The competition began in Kabul, with riders heading toward Badakhshan province. Participants will cover a challenging route of approximately 1,500 kilometers, passing through eight provinces across the country. The race, held in the off-road category, is scheduled to continue for five days.

Officials said the main objectives of the competition are to improve the technical skills and capabilities of motorcycle riders, identify talented athletes, and select outstanding competitors for Afghanistan's national off-road motorcycle racing team.

The event is considered a significant step in promoting motorcycle sports in Afghanistan and providing young athletes with an opportunity to demonstrate their endurance, technical abilities, and competitive spirit. Organizers expressed hope that such competitions will help develop the sport and create a pathway for Afghan riders to participate in regional and international events in the future.

The Kabul Times

UNODC Urged to Reflect Afghanistan's Anti-Drug Achievements in Global Report

KABUL: Shaikh Abdul Rahman Munir, Deputy Minister for Counter-Narcotics of the Ministry of Interior Affairs, has called on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to ensure that the country's efforts in combating narcotics are accurately and fairly reflected in its upcoming global report.

The request came during a meeting with Polak Ouk Serey, Head of the UNODC Office, who said the organization's next global report would present the Islamic Emirate's achievements in drug prevention and counter-narcotics based on facts and in a balanced manner, according to a statement from the ministry on Monday.

Munir expressed hope that Afghanistan's progress in preventing drug production and trafficking would be represented truthfully and impartially, emphasizing that the fight against narcotics is a shared international responsibility requiring continued global cooperation.

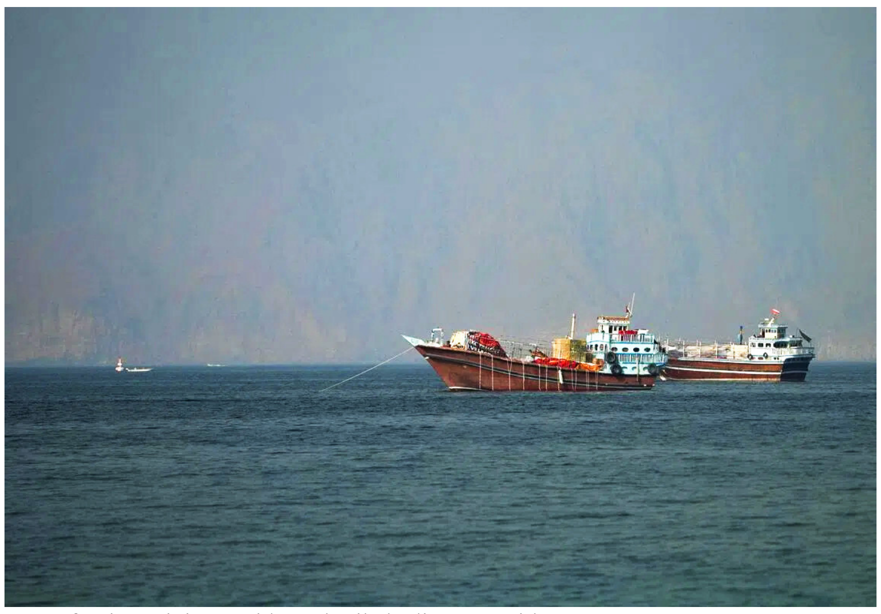
He also highlighted recent successes by Afghan security forces in disrupting drug trafficking networks and preventing narcotics smuggling along major highways across several provinces.

The deputy minister further urged UNODC to expand practical cooperation in supporting alternative livelihood programs for farmers, saying sustainable economic opportunities are essential to replacing poppy cultivation and other illicit crops.

The two sides also discussed strengthening cooperation between Afghanistan and UNODC while ensuring that international assessments accurately reflect developments in the country's ongoing counter-narcotics efforts.

The Kabul Times

Iran Says Met With Oman On Managing Strait Of Hormuz



Iran's foreign ministry said Monday it had held the first meeting with Oman on managing the Strait of Hormuz since Tehran and Washington signed their preliminary deal to end the Middle East war.

Both Iran and Oman say they hold sovereignty over the waterway, a vital route for Gulf energy exports that Tehran blockaded during the war.

"During a trip to Muscat, the first meeting of the Joint Hormuz Committee was held," said Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on X, without specifying the date.

"While reviewing the current issues related to the strait, we exchanged views on the future management," he added.

Hormuz is a narrow stretch of water separating Iran and Oman that is only about 30 kilometers (18 miles) wide.

The future of the strait has been a key sticking point during talks between Tehran and Washington to end their conflict.

Iran is considering imposing "services fees" that did not exist before the war, while the United States opposes any charges, arguing Hormuz is an international waterway.

In recent days, Oman has indicated an ambiguous stance on the issue.

Last Tuesday, following a visit by Iranian officials, Oman and Iran announced in a joint statement that they were examining the costs associated with the future management of the strait.

But later in the week Oman indicated that no "passage fees" were planned and announced the opening of a "temporary maritime corridor" close to its coast that it said was coordinated with the UN.

Iran responded by saying the only authorized passage was a corridor skirting its own coastline.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned on Sunday that any attempt to use alternative routes risked "escalating tensions" in the region.

It followed a flare-up in hostilities in which Iran struck a commercial ship in the strait and the United States responded with strikes on Iranian coastal targets.

The memorandum of understanding reached between Tehran and Washington stipulates that "Iran will engage in a dialogue with the Sultanate of Oman to define the future administration and maritime services in the Strait of Hormuz, in consultation with other [Arabian] Gulf littoral states, in accordance with applicable international law and the sovereign rights of the coastal states of the Strait of Hormuz.

" The text says passage through the strait was to be toll-free "for 60 days only" after the signing of the deal. It remains unclear what will happen after that period.

Alarabiya

Herat Begins Construction of...

From P2

This project, therefore, is not only about building an underground market—it is about building confidence in Afghanistan's future.

The Herat underground market project represents a significant step forward in urban planning and modernization. By relocating laboratories and pharmacies near the provincial hospital, the project will improve access to medical services. By creating a pedestrian underpass and modern parking facility, it will reduce traffic congestion and enhance safety.

By employing 200 workers, it will stimulate the local economy. And by being implemented in a timely and organized manner, it will demonstrate the capacity of Afghan institutions to deliver results.

Most importantly, the project reflects a broader truth: progress in construction and development is the direct result of nationwide security. Stability has allowed Herat to embark on this ambitious undertaking, and similar projects across Afghanistan will continue to transform the country's cities.

The underground market in Herat is thus both a practical solution to local challenges and a symbol of Afghanistan's path toward modernization under the protection of peace.